

JUL 20 1968

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: 97-03338

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING DESIRED: NOT INDICATED

APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

He be awarded the Vietnam Service Medal and the Air Force Overseas Tour Ribbon.

APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

He served two TDY assignments in Thailand in 1968 and 1969.

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The relevant facts pertaining to this application, extracted from the applicant's military records, are contained in the letter prepared by the appropriate office of the Air Force. Accordingly, there is no need to recite these facts in this Record of Proceedings.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

The Recognition Programs Branch, Promotions, Evaluation & Recognition Division, AFPC/DPPRA, reviewed the application and states the only indication the applicant was TDY is an entry on the worksheet reflecting 58 days TDY in Southeast Asia (SEA). They can-not verify his presence in Thailand. Without TDY orders to verify the purpose of his TDY, or the travel voucher—to verify the specific country and length of stay, they can not verify his eligibility for the Vietnam Service Medal or any other awards or decorations.

A complete copy of the Air Force evaluation is attached at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

The applicant reviewed the Air Force evaluation and states that he was assigned to the 4258th Bomb Wing, U-Tapo, Thailand for his entire TDY assignment. He worked as a jet engine mechanic in field maintenance and as a line mechanic on the B-52 and the KC-135. He wants to join a veterans group and become a board member, or an elected officer. The only way he can accomplish this is by having his records corrected. He also states that he is very proud of his military career and would like to share it with his family.

Applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit E.

THE BOARD CONCLUDES THAT:

1. The applicant has exhausted all remedies provided by existing law or regulations.
2. The application was not timely filed; however, it is in the interest of justice to excuse the failure to timely file.
3. Sufficient relevant evidence has been presented to demonstrate the existence of probable error or injustice to warrant awarding the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM). The applicant contends he completed two TDY assignments in Thailand in 1968 and 1969. Although the applicant has been unable to provide copies of TDY orders or travel vouchers in support of his request, an AF Form 7 contained in his records reflects that he performed 58 days TDY in SEA. In view of this, and in recognition of his accomplishments in the defense of our nation, we believe the benefit of the doubt should be resolved in his favor. Therefore, we recommend the applicant's records be corrected to the extent indicated below.
4. Insufficient relevant evidence has been presented to demonstrate the existence of probable error or injustice to warrant awarding the Air Force Overseas Tour Ribbon. In this respect, we note the ribbon was not established until 12 October 1980, and eligibility was not made retroactive. In view of this, and since he did not serve overseas after 12 October 1980, he is not eligible for the ribbon. Therefore, we find no basis upon which to recommend favorable consideration of this portion of his application.

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT:

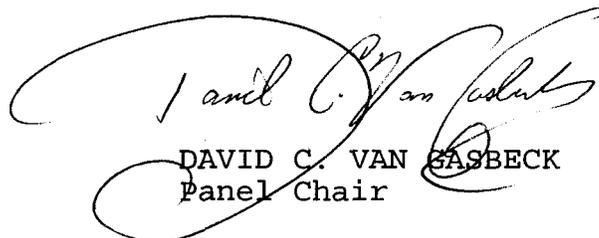
The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT, be corrected to show that on 23 May 1969, he was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal.

The following members of the Board considered this application in Executive Session on 21 April 1998, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

Mr. David C. Van Gasbeck, Panel Chair
Mr. Benedict A. Kausal IV, Member
Mr. Dana J. Gilmour, Member

All members voted to correct the records, as recommended. The following documentary evidence was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 2 November 1997.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, HQ AFPC/DPPRA, dated 20 November 1997.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MIBR, dated 15 December 1997.
- Exhibit E. Letters, Applicant, dated 16 December 1997.



DAVID C. VAN GASBECK
Panel Chair



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, DC

JUL 20 1969

Office of the Assistant Secretary

AFBCMR 97-03338

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

Having received and considered the recommendation of the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records and under the authority of Section 1552, Title 10, United States Code (70A Stat 116), it is directed that:

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to [REDACTED] be corrected to show that on 21 April 1969, he was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal.


JOE G. LINEBERGER
Director
Air Force Review Boards Agency



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE TEXAS



MEMORANDUM FOR AFBCMR

20 November 1997

FROM: HQ AFPC/DPPPRA
550 C Street West Ste 12
Randolph AFB TX 78150-4714

SUBJECT: Application for Correction of Military Records (DD Form 149)
[REDACTED]

1. REQUESTED ACTION. Applicant requests award of the Vietnam Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbon, etc.

2. BASIS FOR REQUEST. Applicant is trying to join a veterans group.

3. FACTS.

a. Applicant was on active duty 21 Jan 66-23 May 69, and received the National Defense Service Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, and Air Force Good Conduct Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster.

b. Applicant states he had two TDY assignments to Thailand in 1968 and 1969. He states he no longer has a copy of the TDY orders. There are no TDY orders or Travel Vouchers in his file.

c. Air Force Form 7 reflects only (TDY SEA 58 Days). There is no indication when, where, or why the TDY was performed.

d. The Air Force Overseas (Long/Short) Tour Ribbon was not established until 12 Oct 80; therefore, the applicant is not eligible for this award.

e. The Vietnam Service Medal is awarded for TDY of 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive days to Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, or Laos if the individual is in direct support of operations in Vietnam.

4. DISCUSSION. Since the only indication the applicant was TDY is an entry on the worksheet reflecting 58 days TDY in "SEA" (Southeast Asia), we can not verify his presence in Thailand. "SEA" could mean Guam, Philippine Republic, Japan, Korea, etc. Without the TDY orders to verify the purpose of his TDY, or the Travel Voucher to verify the specific country and length of stay, we can not verify his eligibility for the Vietnam Service Medal or any other awards or decorations.

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5. RECOMMENDATION.

We recommend disapproval of the applicant's request for award of the Vietnam Service Medal and Air Force Overseas Ribbon.

FOR THE COMMANDER



GEORGIA A. WISE, DAFC
Recognition Programs Branch
Promotions, Eval & Recognition Div

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